



SECURE PAROLE RE-ENTRY FACILITIES

Governor Schwarzenegger has called for a special session of the Legislature to address the urgent issues of recidivism and overcrowding in California's prison system. The Governor is introducing four correctional proposals: moving non-violent female offenders to secure community-based correctional facilities; creating secure parole re-entry facilities; building two new prisons and improving prison infrastructure; and streamlining the state's procurement process for these projects. If passed by the Legislature, these proposals will help reduce prison overcrowding and return-to-custody rates.

Lowering Prison Populations and Reducing Crime

California cannot solve the prison crisis without addressing recidivism. The success or failure of parolees' re-entry into their communities plays a significant role in whether or not they commit new crimes which, in turn, influences the state's inmate population. The Governor's top priority is public safety, and he is committed to keeping parolees from victimizing more Californians once they are released from prison.

Currently, California's 70 percent recidivism rate is the highest in the nation. There is an emerging consensus among researchers and policymakers that connecting prisoners to local law enforcement and social services can significantly reduce their likelihood of committing more crimes. Secure parole re-entry facilities are a critical tool in successfully re-integrating parolees into communities. States across the nation, including Washington, Iowa, Ohio and South Carolina, have re-entry programs, and the National Governors' Association for Best Practices has documented positive cost benefits associated with re-entry programs.

Under the Governor's proposal:

- Inmates about to be released from prison will be transferred to secure parole re-entry facilities where they will receive mental health counseling and life skills training.
- These facilities will be located in the communities where parolees will be released.
 - Currently, parolees are often released far away from where they have served time, with little preparation for life outside of prison. The effect is two-fold; it increases the likelihood that the parolee will commit more crimes, and it keeps law enforcement and social service providers from integrating their monitoring and evaluation. Secure parole re-entry facilities will link parolees with local law enforcement and social services in the community where they will be released, prior to their release, increasing public safety and parole success.
 - This reform will enhance CDCR's ability to build partnerships with local law enforcement and social service providers, increase information exchange and the quality of parolee supervision, and more accurately target of serious parole offenders for revocation and prosecution.
- Secure parole re-entry facilities will have 24-hour confinement, secure perimeters, and no in or out privileges. These facilities do not alter prisoners' sentences in any way, nor do they operate as half-way houses.

The Administration proposes using lease-revenue bonds to fund the Governor's prison construction and secure re-entry facilities proposals.

Governor Schwarzenegger's fourth prison proposal will allow the state to streamline its prison procurement and construction processes. The special session will allow the Legislature to specify how, precisely, bidding and procurement should be modified to remedy emergency conditions. All options will be explored, and may include changes such as modifying CEQA requirements, or authorizing bond funding by program rather than by project.